

April 12, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC APPROVES RELAY CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH HAMILTON

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission approved Tuesday a two-year renewal of a contract with Hamilton Communications of Aurora to provide relay services in Nebraska.

The extension for the final two years of a total seven-year contract provides for an increase of five percent for Hamilton, the first rate hike for the company since the current contract became effective on July 1, 2002. In a separate action Tuesday, the Commission kept the relay monthly surcharge at five-cents for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Hamilton operates the Nebraska Relay Service which provides telecommunications services to persons with hearing and speech disabilities. Anyone in the state may access the Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

Hamilton has been Nebraska's only operator since the program began in January 1991. The company has authority to operate relay services in 15 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to a call center in Aurora, the company operates call centers in Madison, Wisconsin; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and will open a call center in Frostburg, Maryland, when it begins operation of the Maryland Relay Service in May.

First District Commissioner, Frank Landis of Lincoln said, "Hamilton Communications is the poster child for rural economic development. From a modest beginning to a national presence – what a success story!"

Hamilton also provides CapTel service, an alternative to traditional relay service, which is a service that utilizes a computer equipped with voice-recognition software.

Funding for the relay service is derived from a surcharge on local telephone bills. An analyst for the Commission, which oversees the relay program, said the increased cost associated with the contract extension will not require an increase in the monthly surcharge.

#